

DEC 05 2007

Application No: 10/760,277
Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3112**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of metering the packet rate of a packet flow, comprising the steps of:

a) configuring a packet rate limit for an ACL (access control list) interface, defined by a maximum number of packets P_{max} acceptable in a time interval $T_{refresh}$;

b) counting the number of packets P received at said ACL interface; ~~and~~

c) discarding all packets arriving at said ACL after P_{max} has been reached; and

d) placing the discarded packets in an extraction queue for further examination.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein $P_{sub.max}$ and $T_{sub.refresh}$ are configurable.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step b) comprises: providing a packet rate limit counter at said ACL interface and initiating said counter at a value StartCount; incrementing the counter with each received packet of said packet flow to provide a CurrentCount, and resetting said counter at said time intervals $T_{sub.refresh}$.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein step c) comprises discarding all packets arriving at said ACL interface after said counter reached a saturation value CountSat.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein step c) comprises: discarding all packets arriving at said counter after said counter reached a saturation value CountSat; and counting the number of the packets discarded since said counter reaches said saturation value until said T.sub.refresh.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein counting of the discarded packets is performed with said counter.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising placing the discarded packets in an extraction queue for further examination wherein said extraction queue examines~~ the discarded packets to determine a cause of the excessive rate.